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TO GOMPERT/BONG/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA 86070 WH50215

TOHAK66

FEBRUARY 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

MORI/CDF C03204077

[redacted]

25X1

THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS

JEREMIAH O'LEARY REPORTS THE U.S., IN A MAJOR GESTURE TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA, WILL NO LONGER RESTRICT CUBAN DIPLOMATS AT THE UN FROM TRAVELLING MORE THAN 25 MILES FROM NEW YORK. THE DECISION, MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, WILL ALLOW THE CUBANS TO TRAVEL 250 MILES FROM NEW YORK, THUS OPENING WASHINGTON TO THEM. THIS ACTION REPRESENTS ONLY THE FIRST IN A SERIES AIMED AT RELAXING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CUBA.

NSA review completed

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VERNON GUIDRY, JR., WRITES THAT A U.S. ARMY EVALUATION OF SOVIET ARTILLERY AND ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS HAS FOUND THEM SUPERIOR TO U.S. WEAPONS. THE REPORT WAS MADE PUBLIC BY REP. LES ASPIN, A CONSTANT CRITIC OF THE PENTAGON. SOVIET WEAPONS ALLEGEDLY WEAR LONGER, ARE EASIER TO MAINTAIN AND FIRE HIGHER VELOCITY PROJECTILES.

AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL CALLS ON THE IRISH OF ULSTER TO REVOKE THEIR SUPPORT TO EXTREMISTS OF BOTH SIDES. THE RECENT IRA TRUCE IS VIEWED AS A "FRAGILE CHANCE" THAT A SETTLEMENT OR AT LEAST TALKS ARE IN THE OFFING. APPARENTLY, MODERATE CATHOLIC SENTIMENT HAS FORCED THIS DECISION ON THE IRA. IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE PROTESTANT EXTREMISTS TO CEASE THEIR TERROR.

A PICTURE OF YOU AND GROMYKO APPEARS ON PAGE STX.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN KLAUS BOELLING TOLD THE PRESS TODAY THAT ALL OF FEDERAL CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK HAVE BEEN CANCELED BECAUSE THE DOCTOR TREATING HIM HAS FOUND THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS PNEUMONIA. ACCORDING TO BOELLING, THE CHANCELLOR COULD BE UP AND ABOUT AGAIN NEXT WEEK.

CAMBODIAN SITUATION: THE CRITICAL MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA DETERIORATED FURTHER OVER THE WEEKEND. COMMUNIST ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON PEAM REANG ISLAND CONTINUED AND THE ISLAND HAS REPORTEDLY FALLEN TO THE COMMUNISTS. RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST YESTERDAY AND ALTHOUGH THE FATE OF TWO BATTALIONS ON THE ISLAND IS NOT YET KNOWN, LOSSES ARE EXPECTED TO BE HEAVY. EARLIER ATTEMPTS TO LAND A THIRD BATTALION ON PEAM REANG HAD MET FIERCE ENEMY RESISTANCE. ONLY 40 TROOPS WERE ABLE TO GET ASHORE WHILE TWICE THAT MANY CASUALTIES WERE SUFFERED DURING THE EFFORT. LOSS OF THE GOVERNMENT BEACHHEAD ON PEAM REANG WILL GREATLY ENDANGER REMAINING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOUTH OF NEAK LUONG AND DELAY SECURITY OPERATIONS PLANNED FOR THE AREA OF THE SOUTHERN NARROWS. WITHOUT THE FRIENDLY FOOTHOLD OVERLOOKING THIS KEY CHOKE POINT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SECURE THE RIVERBANKS WILL SUCCEED WITHOUT A MASSIVE COMMITMENT OF TROOPS.
ELSEWHERE THE BADLY MAULED 7TH DIVISION REMAINS UNDER ALMOST CONSTANT ATTACK AND THE REMNANTS OF ONE OF ITS BRIGADES WITHDREW SUNDAY. NO SIGNIFICANT PENETRATION OF THE CAPITAL'S NORTHWESTERN DEFENSES HAS RESULTED, HOWEVER, ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTS REVEAL THE KC ARE AWARE THEY FACE A WEAKENED FORCE AND INTEND TO PRESS THEIR ATTACKS. IN THE FAR NORTHWEST THE INSURGENTS HAVE OCCUPIED MOST OF MOUNG RUSSEI A TOWN ASTRIDE ROUTE 5 SOUTHEAST OF BATTAMBANG. SEVERAL BUILDINGS WERE SET AFIRE INCLUDING A LARGE RICE WAREHOUSE. MEANWHILE, COMMUNIST ROCKETS CONTINUE TO FALL AT POCHENTANG AND ON THE

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CAPITAL. TWENTY ONE PERSONS WERE WOUNDED IN ATTACKS AGAINST THE AIRFIELD YESTERDAY AND TODAY. AN ENEMY ROCKET HIT A WAREHOUSE IN NORTHERN PHNOM PENH ON THE 16TH DESTROYING A QUANTITY OF LUBRICANTS.
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